(vii) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

Life Saving treatment for the poor

782. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the prohibitive cost of cancer treatment, poor patients have to forgo life saving surgery or treatment;

(b) whether according to a study only 50 per cent of the patients-are able to afford life saving treatment while the balance are left to die; and

(c) if so, the action Government are taking to ensure that life saving treatment is available to the poor who are unable to pay the cost of medicines and treatment of diseases like cancer, kidney failure etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) No data is available on treatment of cancers according to socio-economic status. The major modalities of treatment of cancer include surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. However, the most cost-effective method is prevention and early detection of cancer.

(c) In the Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges/Government supported Regional Cancer Centres, a large number of poor patients are either being treated free of cost or at nominal charges for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures involved in cancer treatment.

In addition to above this Ministry has a scheme namely National Illness Assistance Fund under which financial assistance is provided to people living below the poverty line suffering from serious diseases such as Cancer, Cardiac problems. Renal Disorders or other such diseases.

Vacancies of Senior Residents in Dental and Neurology Departments of AIIMS

783. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies of Senior Residents in Dental and Neurology Departments of AIIMS as on 1 st October, 2001;